

data, use support ratings and permit information are reported by DWQ at the subbasin level.

Although subbasins are uniquely numbered, the boundaries generally mesh with the national system in that one or more subbasins fit entirely within the 8-digit HUs. Each basinwide water quality plan contains a table explaining how the DWQ system fits into the national system for that particular basin.

#### Watersheds for Local Planning

Table 5 shows how the Center for Watershed Protection and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments outline some basic characteristics of the five watershed management units they recognize. The table also shows how the national hydrologic system relates to these units. Like North Carolina, this hierarchy includes basins and subbasins. It also adds three smaller units (from largest to smallest): watershed, subwatershed, and catchment. The table also identifies the influence of impervious cover within a management unit. The most important thing to note is the greatest impacts of impervious surface occur in the smaller watershed management units, such as the catchment and subwatershed.

Table 5 also indicates that the management focus for addressing water quality varies depending on the size of the watershed management unit. BMPs and site-design standards are generally effective in catchment areas as tools for addressing water quality. Land use planning generally occurs most often at the subwatershed, watershed, and subbasin levels.

### **Basics of Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances**

#### Land Use/Comprehensive Planning

In addition to zoning, local governments often adopt land use or comprehensive plans. The land use plan is not regulatory like zoning, but it establishes a long-range plan for development for a community over a period of ten to twenty years. The only mandate for local land use plans in North Carolina is the Coastal Area Management Act (CAMA), which requires land use plans be prepared for all twenty coastal counties. The land use plan examines the relationship between land uses and other areas of interest, such as transportation, recreation,